



CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Theresa M. Donahue, Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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WELLINGTON E. WEBB
Mayor

June 30, 2000

Mr. Max Dodson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VIII
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

RE: Vasquez Boulevard/I-70 Site
Residential Arsenic Sampling Results

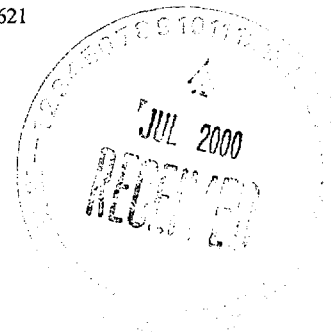
Dear Max:

We received a June 6, 2000 letter from Jeffrey Deckler at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to you summarizing concerns regarding the Vasquez Boulevard/I-70 Site (VB/I70). I wanted you to know of the city's similar concerns.

We understand that no conclusions have been drawn regarding the source of the arsenic contamination. A variety of possible sources are under consideration, including pesticide application. If the arsenic at the VB/I70 site is from pesticide application, the application would have occurred prior to the passage of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and thus would remain under the purview of the Superfund program. Also, cleanup under Superfund would be justified, even if the arsenic contamination were the result of a pesticide, if the contamination stemmed from a misapplication of the product.

We understand that EPA is planning to resample and conduct removals at some properties containing high arsenic concentrations. Although some of these properties were identified through separate sampling efforts than the EPA VB/I70 sampling efforts, the concentrations found are of significant health concern. Some of these properties lie outside of the VB/I70 site boundaries. EPA should provide that any residential property with levels of arsenic exceeding the emergency action level of 400 parts per million (ppm) be included for re-sampling and cleanup if warranted, even if they lie outside of the VB/I70 site boundaries.

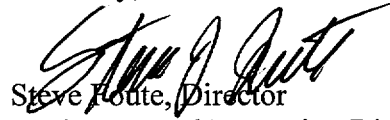
The city and community members are very concerned about the potential for health effects resulting from exposure to the arsenic soil contamination. We strongly encourage EPA and other health agencies to coordinate in providing extensive health studies to understand the



degree of health effects occurring in the affected populations. Health studies are needed to identify whether additional interventions are needed.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Route", written over the printed name.

Steve Route, Director
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Bonnie Lavelle – EPA Region VIII
Jeff Deckler/Barbara O'Grady – CDPHE
Celia VanDerLoop – DEH
VB file 1B